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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Rex Bitner <i>et al.</i>	Docket No.	016026/9264
Serial No.	09/711,782	Group Art Unit	1637
Confirmation No.	7178	Examiner:	J. Riley
Filed:	November 13, 2000		
For:	LYSATE CLEARANCE AND NUCLEIC ACID ISOLATION USING SILANIZED SILICA MATRICES		

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, and in response to the non-final Office Action mailed November 25, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration on the merits of the application and allowance of the claims.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-51 are pending in the application. In a non-final Office Action mailed November 25, 2002, claims 24-51 were allowed, claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13-16, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claims 5, 6, 9-12, 17, and 20-23 were objected to as depending from a rejected claim. All rejections made in the previous Office Action were withdrawn. In view of the arguments below, Applicants request reconsideration on the merits and allowance of the claims.